

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONVENTION CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING**

December 21, 2010

A meeting of the Marketing Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority Board of Commissioners was held on December 21, 2010, pursuant to notice at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Dave Duffy, Jeff Hirsh, Bernie Buonanno and Letitia Carter.

Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill, Betty Sullivan and Kim Keough, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Arleen Oliva, Deb Tuton, Nancy Beauchamp, Amanda Marzullo and Melissa Masunic, RICC; Martha Sheridan, PWCVB; Cheryl Cohen, and Jodi Duclos, DDC; Steve Habl, VMA; Michael Abbott, Newport Collaborative; Bruce Leach, Legal Council and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Hirsh called the meeting to order at 1:43 PM. Mr. Hirsh asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the October Convention Center Committee meeting.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Duffy and seconded by Ms. Carter it was unanimously

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the October meeting.

Mr. Duffy introduced Michael Abbott of Newport Collaborative who will present his design for the VMA. Mr. Abbott thanked Mr. Duffy and the Authority for the opportunity to show his ideas for the proposed renovations. Mr. Abbott had produced a model that indicates the direction that he envisions for the theater. He stated that the theater has several problem areas that need to be addressed in order to attract more talent and patrons to the building. Mr. Abbott noted that the position of the loading dock makes it very difficult to move scenery, musical instruments and anything else that is needed for a production. Mr. Abbott said that everything must be lifted by crane and sung into the building. Mr. Hahl noted the increase in labor costs as well as the inconvenience makes this project a priority. Mr. Abbott stated that there are not enough restrooms in the theater and few in the dressing rooms. Mr. Hahl noted that promoters love the building until they see the dressing rooms, which do not have showers. Mr. Abbott also stated that there is no access from backstage to the lobby without going outside or through the audience. Mr. Abbott said that in the five year plan those issues have been addressed. Mr. Abbott indicated with his model the solution to the loading dock issue. He noted that by using a portion of the sidewalk, a new loading dock could be built so that trucks would be level with the loading dock door. Mr. Abbott stated that by building out four feet on the Park St. side of the Theater a glass enclosed tube that would

allow access from back of house for performers, easier access from the street through the tube for patrons and rest rooms most of the issues have been addressed. Mr. Abbott then presented a model connection from the Mall Parking Garage to the VMA that he noted was not in the plans for the immediate future but something to work towards. Discussions ensued regarding the model. Mr. Duffy asked if this could be accomplished for the money that we have. Mr. Abbott said that he believes that it can be done but does not include the connection to the Mall. Mr. Duffy asked what the next steps will be. Mr. McCarvill said that the model would be presented to the Capital Center Review Committee on January 4th.

Mr. Muldoon reported that the numbers for November were down to last year due in part to events that were held in November and will occur in December this year. Mr. Muldoon noted that TSO was in November in 2009. Mr. Muldoon said that some new Citizens Bank events have been scheduled but the big event that the Convention Center was looking forward to is being held in Boston. Mr. Muldoon reported that the Convention Center will be the public show season soon. He noted that public shows are very important to our revenue. Mr. Muldoon reported that Food & Beverage was flat to last year although last years numbers were high.

Mr. Muldoon reported that SMG is moving ahead with renovations to the concession stands. Mr. Muldoon noted that the Rotunda is in need of some upgrades. He said that the room has not been

refurbished in 8 or 9 years. Mr. Muldoon reported that the staffs of both the Convention Center and the Dunkin' Donuts Center have been taking part in safety training on Monday and again today.

Mr. Duffy noted that he and Mr. McCarvill had met with the Mayor Elect and that he had informed them that the Convention Center Complex is very important to him and the City of Providence.

Mr. Hirsh asked if there was any new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Buonanno and seconded by Mr. Duffy it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:17 PM